Extension of electric supply to Peermade.

436. ✻ MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have taken any steps for the extension of the electric supply lines to Peermade; and

(*b*) if so, the nature of the work done till now?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The investigation has been completed.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: May I know when the investigation has been completed?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: I could not tell you the exact time, but it is round about 1942.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: May I know the reason why so much delay is caused in implementing the programme?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Indents were placed for the materials but the Government of India refused to sanction priority at the time.

Public Call Office at Ponkunnam.

437. ✻ MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have taken any steps for the opening of a public call office at Ponkunnam; and

(*b*) if not, why not?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) Yes. The opening of a Public Call Office at Ponkunnam is proposed to be taken up shortly.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

Telephone Call Offices.

438. ✻ MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have not received applications for establishing telephone call offices at Thodupuzha and Erattupetta in Minachil, from the public of the respective places; and

(*b*) whether any arrangements have been made for the same?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Extension to Erattupetta will be considered when a better return on the expenditure involved can be expected and the member is referred to answer given to Question No. 435 as to the extension to Thodupuzha.

Electric power for cottage industries.

439. ✻ MR. K. A. MATHEW (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many applications have been received by Government from Travancoreans in 1119, 1120 and 1121 for the supply of electric power to start cottage industries; and

(*b*) of these how many have been granted?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) 4 in 1119 M. E., 2 in 1120 M. E., and none in 1121 M. E.

(*b*) All the six.

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RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): May I know from Government whether they have received any application from A. K. Bhaskar of Quilon for cottage industrial purposes in 1121 ?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN : I claim notice.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR : No, but there is this answer : 'None in 1121'. *i. e.*, no applications were received in 1121. That is against truth.

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN : Whether Mr. Bhaskar applied or not, I do not know.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR : The question is this :

> 'How many applications have been received by Government from Travancoreans in 1119, 1120 and 1121 for the supply of electric power to start cottage industries? '

and the answer is 'none in 1121'. And I know that A. K. Bhaskar has applied for the purpose of starting a cottage industry.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. Individual applications and the result of those applications had better not be discussed on the floor of the House. I would only advise honourable members not to do so. For instance, if there is a certain answer given it might sometimes, be embarrassing either to the department or to the member. Of course, many of us have got contracts and want to make applications for electric power for the purpose of fulfilling those contracts. I do not think that individual applications should be raised. Of course, if you had put it in a general way, it would have been different. I suppose honourable members will not think I am personal in this matter, because the whole position is this. Once honourable members of this House say that their applications have not been properly dealt with, members of the public who have no honourable members in this House or are not honourable members of this House themselves, may find themselves at a disadvantage. That is why I am suggesting that all these personal matters need not be raised here.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR : I would not have raised the question at all if the answer had not been so.

PRESIDENT : Nor do I say you would have done so. For instance, if the honourable member had asked why this wonderful department is not encouraging cottage industries etc., it would have been regular. But the moment Mr. Bhaskar's name came in, difficulties arose.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR : I wanted to give a particular instance and I happened to be myself an applicant. So I thought I would give the instance because I know that there are hundreds of applicants like me who have been.....

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN : According to the information available in my hands, at the time I prepared the answer, there were no applications.

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RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: Well, I have got a reply from the Chief Engineer that it is.....

PRESIDENT: There is some mistake somewhere. Will you see what it is?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Yes, Sir.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: I have got a reply.....

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: There are no applications.....

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: But there has been one. I applied.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Mr. Bhaskar says he has sent an application for power for industrial purposes. If you remember—if you don't, you may consult your files and then inform me—but if you remember, was there an application and if so, what has happened.

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: I do not remember it. As soon as the application came, I must have replied that he would get power as soon as it became available. But the question here is "how many applications for the supply of power for *cottage industries*." In this particular case, it might not have been for a cottage industry.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: It is.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Bhaskar, what is this industry?

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: For manufacturing toys, packing cases etc.

PRESIDENT: Will you look into the matter?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Yes, Sir.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): Mr. Bhaskar has made the statement that there are hundreds of applications that have been refused. Could that be true?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: There have been hundreds of applications for power. All those have been registered and information given to the applicants. But there were no applications for power for cottage industries.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the member be pleased to explain what is meant by cottage industry?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise really.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: We want to know for what cases we must apply. It will be useful.

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Cottage industry is any industry carried on in the cottage.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I put it to the Electrical Engineer, would it be possible to supply electric power for weaving?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: For handloom weaving, yes, and in individual cases.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: Is the honourable member aware that power given to the licensees is being transferred in the black market to people who have not been granted power for factory purposes?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: No. I am not aware of such transactions.

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MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Would it be possible for the Department to supply electric power to Balaramapuram, one of the biggest weaving centres in the State?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: An estimate has already been prepared for the extension of supply to that place.

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact I may tell the honourable members that the policy of Government is to make this industry in the South of Travancore able and fit to compete with conditions as they are likely to exist immediately after the war. It is fairly clear that the hand-loom industry, both spinning and weaving, if it is the mainstay in the provinces may not be able to withstand competition after the war, when the textile position of England and America improves. There is no doubt that the textile position of England has improved very greatly and the President of the Board of Trade, Sir Stafford Cripps, has made a statement in the House of Commons that they expect to export practically the same pre-war quantity of textiles to the Far East and India. In other words, considering that the biggest consumer of textiles is India, it is clear that England expects to recapture its old textile trade of India. Now, it is not very likely that the Constituent Assembly will meet or do anything in particular in regard to this matter as the new Government may take some time to evolve itself. Until then we must be prepared for competition and unless we organise ourselves and use all the electric power at least for weaving, confining ourselves to hand spinning, we may be in some difficulty. At one time it was considered possible that all English and American textiles would have prohibitive import duties imposed upon them. But at the present moment there are statutory and constitutional difficulties for that and therefore it is necessary to impress on the Electrical department and others that such cottage industries as weaving must be reorganised on a power basis so as to withstand post-war competition.

Electric supply for irrigation purposes.

440. *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) whether they are aware of the demand of the inhabitants of Arattupuzha, Malakara, Edayaranmula, Poovathur, Nirvilakam and Koipuram in Tiruvalla taluk for the extension of electric supply for irrigation purposes;

(*b*) what action has been taken to meet this need; and

(*c*) whether the Government realise that the early introduction of lift irrigation in those areas will considerably improve paddy cultivation.

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under investigation.

(*c*) It can be known only after the investigation is completed.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know when the inhabitants of this place sent up representations to get electricty?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: An application for extension of supply to Nirvilakam Puncha was received about two years ago.

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